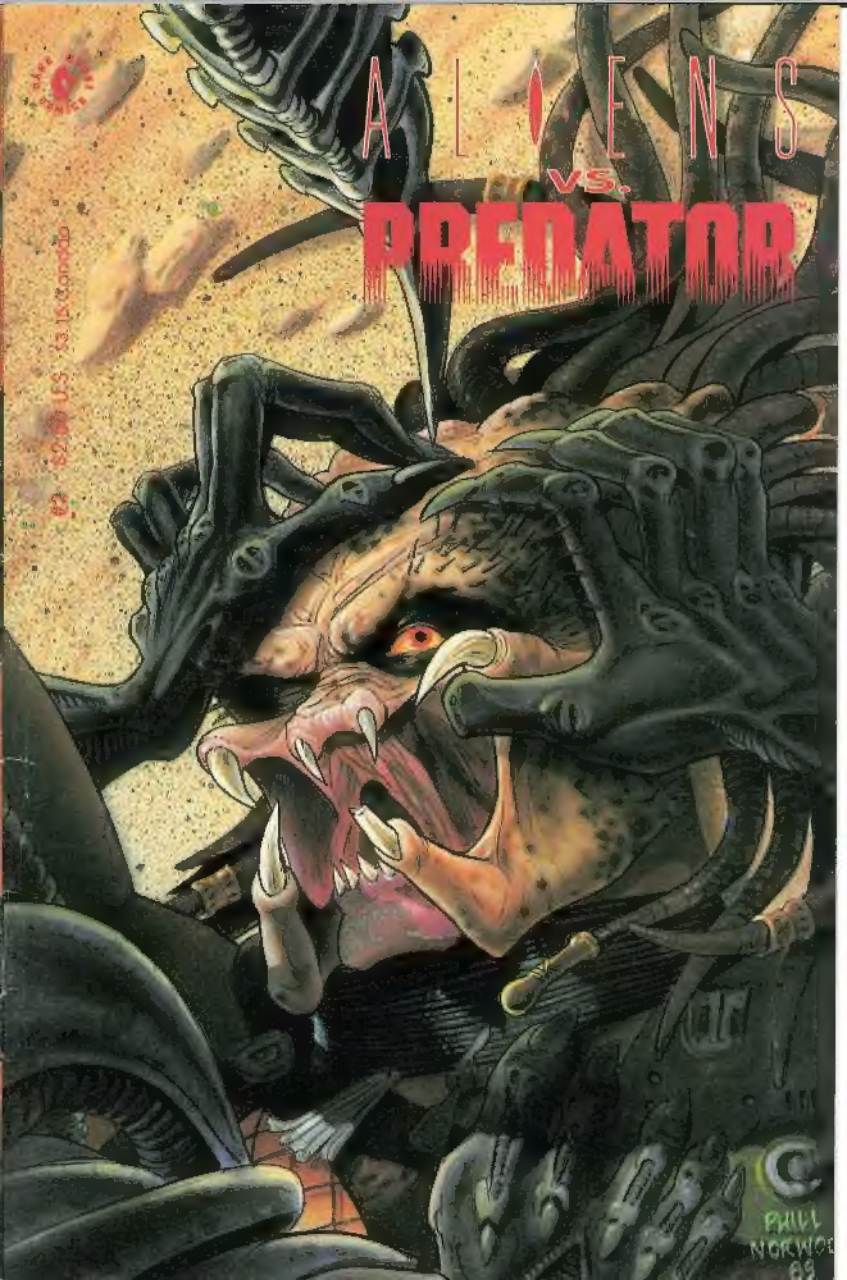
ALIENS
VS.
PREDATOR
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PHILL
NOKWOD
89

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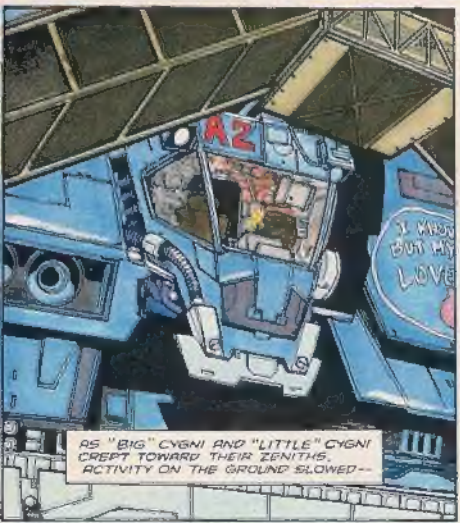
Three years ago the first humans arrived on Ryushi. Now **Machiko Noguchi** is in charge of **Prosperity Wells**, a thriving settlement raising rhino-like herd animals to feed an increasingly hungry Mother Earth. What Machiko and the colonists don't know is that they're not the first visitors to the desert planet...

In preparation for a cyclical "coming of age" rite, the star-spanning race known as **Predators** has "seeded" the planet with the eggs of its most dangerous **Alien** prey.

Before the hunt can begin, however, the Predators have a run-in with **Dr. Kesar Revna**, the colonists' expert on extraterrestrial biology -- an encounter that destroys the Predator landing vehicle and leaves the young Predators leaderless and thirsty for revenge.

As a new day dawns, and the crew of the transport ship ***The Lector*** prepares for a trip to their orbital barge, they discover that the Prosperity Wells livestock is infected with a deadly parasite...

DOUBLE SUNS BLAZED UPON PROSPERITY WELLS... BANISHED THE SHADOWS... DRIED MEN'S SWEAT TO A CHAFING, SALTY CRUST... ERASED EVEN THE MEMORY OF COMFORT.



AS "BIG" CYGNI AND "LITTLE" CYGNI CREPT TOWARD THEIR ZENITHS, ACTIVITY ON THE GROUND SLOWED--

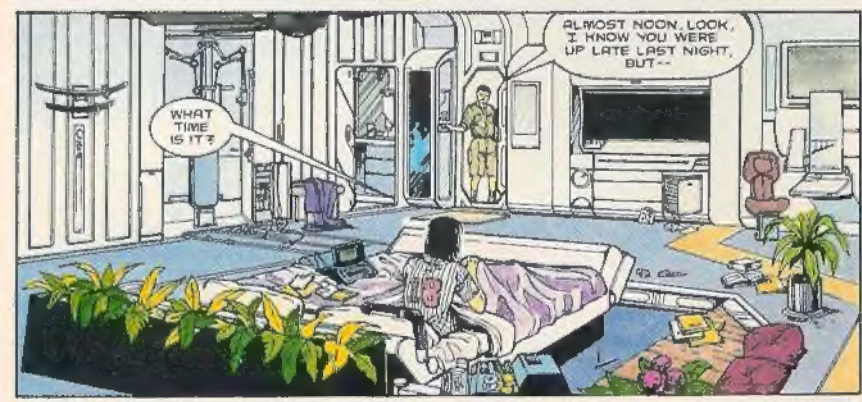
--UNTIL EVERYTHING THAT LIVED BECAME AS STILL AS THE THIN, BREATHLESS AIR.

BUT THAT DAY, EVEN AT RYUSHI'S SHADELESS NOON, THERE WAS DARKNESS...
A DARKNESS ECHOING WITH THE SOFT, WET SOUNDS OF RHYTHMIC MOVEMENT--
--THE INSISTENT PULSE OF BODY AGAINST BODY--
--A DIZZYING, WORDLESS THRUM--
BRAWWW-NK-K-K-K-K-K
OH, JESUS... NO!

NO... no...
--BUILDING TOWARD A SCREAMING, FERAL RELEASE.

No...
MACHIKO?

CLICK
No-- Huh... WHA--?
TOKYO
MACHIKO... ARE YOU AWAKE?


WHAT TIME IS IT?
ALMOST NOON. LOOK, I KNOW YOU WERE UP LATE LAST NIGHT, BUT--

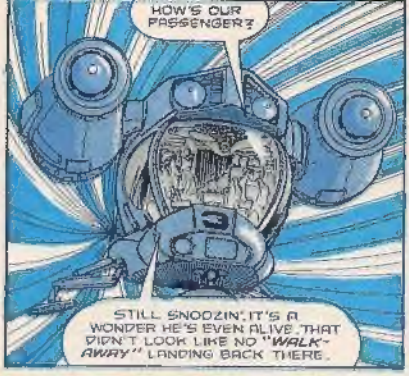
IT'S AWFULLY WARM IN HERE, ISN'T IT?
--DOC REYNA STILL HASN'T RETURNED, AND MRS. DOC IS GETTING PSYCHED. I'VE SENT OUT A CREW IN THE COPTER TO SEARCH FOR HIM--

--BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF THE STAFF SAW THAT YOU WERE IN ON THIS, TOO.
YOU'RE RIGHT, HIROKI. GIVE ME TWO MINUTES TO GET DRESSED.

DAY 12
DRS. KESAR & MIRIAM REVNA, MD, DVM, DE MEDICAL
OFFICE ENTRANCE
Mrs. DOC WANTED TO CHECK OUT A HOVER BIKE AND GO LOOKING FOR HIM ON HER OWN, BUT I THOUGHT--
--WHY RISK HAVING BOTH OF THEM LOST OUT THERE?
RIGHT.
Oh, Ms. NOGUCHI--DID THEY FIND MY KESAR?
NOT YET, Dr. REVNA, BUT WE'VE GOT OUR BEST PEOPLE OUT LOOKING FOR HIM.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF THAT MIGHT HELP US LOCATE YOUR HUSBAND? SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE THOUGHT WAS IMPORTANT BEFORE?
NO--NO, I DON'T THINK SO. KESAR WAS ON HIS WAY UP TO IWA GORGE--
--TO LOOK FOR MORE OF THESE. THEY'RE VIRTUALLY UNCLASSIFIABLE. THEIR STRUCTURE BEARS CHARACTERISTICS OF BOTH CARBON-BASED AND SILICON-BASED LIFE FORMS--
YES, I READ YOUR REPORT. HOW DID HE KNOW TO LOOK ALL THE WAY UP IN IWA GORGE?
THAT'S WHERE SHE SAID SHE FOUND THEM.
"SHE"?
YES... WHAT'S HER NAME? THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO WORKS FOR FLYING "A"... ROTH.
WHAT WOULD ROTH BE DOING ALL THE WAY UP IN IWA GORGE? ACKLAND DOESN'T HAVE ANY HERDS WITHIN TWENTY KLIKS OF THERE.
THOSE THINGS WEREN'T FOUND IN IWA GORGE.

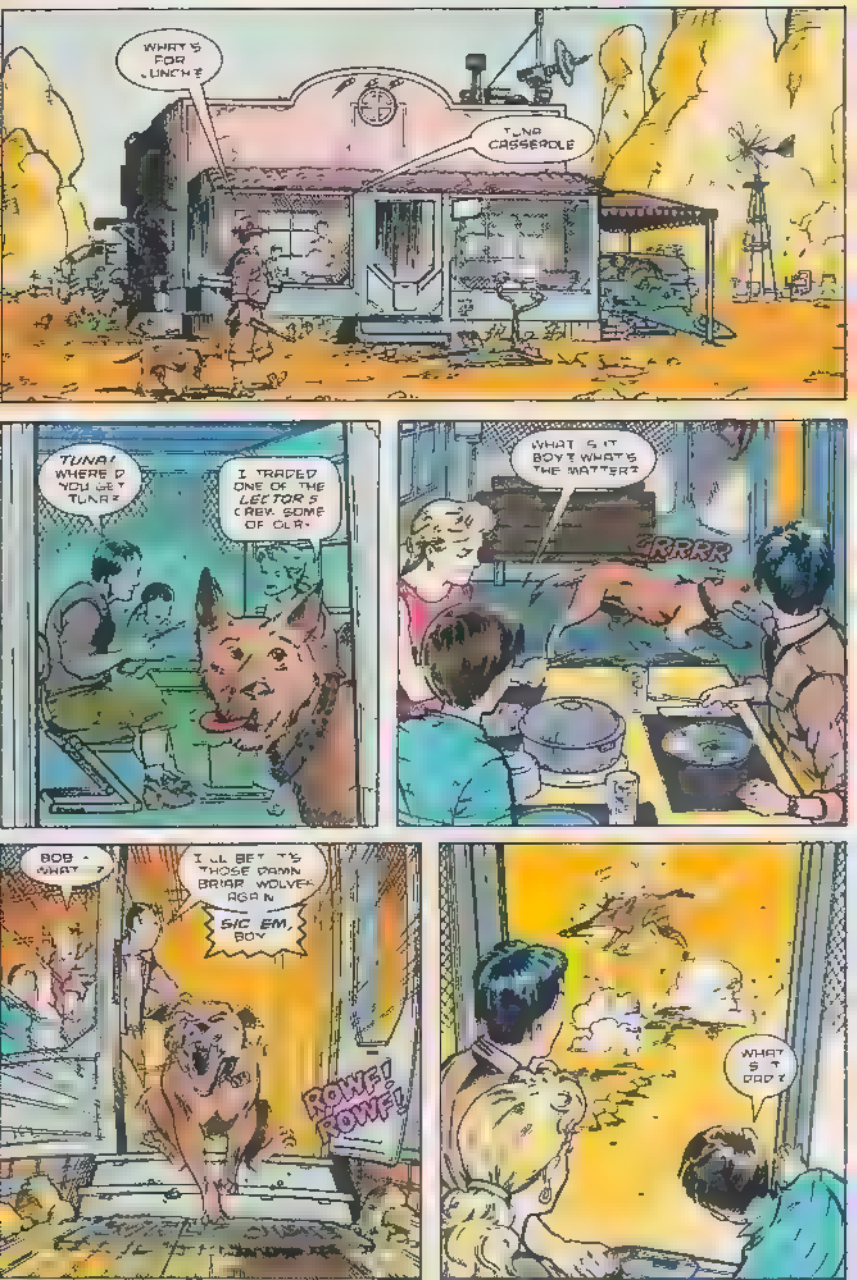
Huh?
THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU WERE ACKLAND AND YOU DISCOVERED SOME NEW LIFE FORM THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR RHYNTH WERE TO BE SHIPPED OFF-PLANET, WOULD YOU RISK HAVING YOUR ENTIRE YEAR'S PROFITS HELD UP IN QUARANTINE?
NO. YOU'D SAY THE LIFE FORM WAS DISCOVERED FAR FROM WHERE YOUR HERD WAS PASTURED.
BUT WHY WOULD HE REPORT IT AT ALL?
TO COVER HIS ASS. SAY HIS RHYNTH DO COME DOWN WITH SOME UNKNOWN DISEASE. HE'S DONE HIS DUTY--HE REPORTED THE DISCOVERY. HOW WAS HE TO KNOW HIS HERD HAD COME IN CONTACT WITH ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
SO WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?
WEST
ADMINISTRATION
WE TALK TO ROTH FIRST, THEN ACKLAND. IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO REVNA, HE'LL PAY.
HE SENT REVNA ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE--
"--THERE'S NOTHING UP AT IWA GORGE BUT ROCKS AND SAND."
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I DON'T SHITTIN' BELIEVE IT!

LOOK AT THIS, IKEDA! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? THIS IS AN HONEST-TO-GOD ALIEN SPACESHIP--OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.
THIS WASN'T BUILT IN DETROIT, OR OSAKA, OR EVEN SEOUL. WE'RE TALKIN' UFOS -- CHARIOTS OF THE GODS!
THINK OF THE NEW INFORMATION! IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT MADE THIS THING TICK--
WHY NOT JUST ASK HIM?
WHA--?
HOLY--! WHEREVER HE CAME FROM, THEY GROW 'EM BIG!
I THINK HE'S DEAD--
--NO! HE'S STILL BREATHING.
THIS IS TOO SHITTIN' UN-BELIEVABLE! I MEAN--
CAN IT, SPANNER. HELP ME GET HIM INTO THE COPTER.
SAY AGAIN, COPTER-1-- YOU FOUND WHAT?
NEVER MIND. YOU'LL SEE IT WHEN WE GET BACK.
NO SIGN OF THE DOC ANYWHERE-- BUT WHAT WE'VE FOUND CAN'T WAIT. COPTER-1 RE-TURNING TO BASE. IKEDA OUT.
"HELP HER," SHE SAYS. THIS GUY WEIGHS A SHITTIN' TON...


HOW'S OUR PASSENGER?
STILL SNOOZIN'. IT'S A WONDER HE'S EVEN ALIVE, THAT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE NO "WALK-AWAY" LANDING BACK THERE.

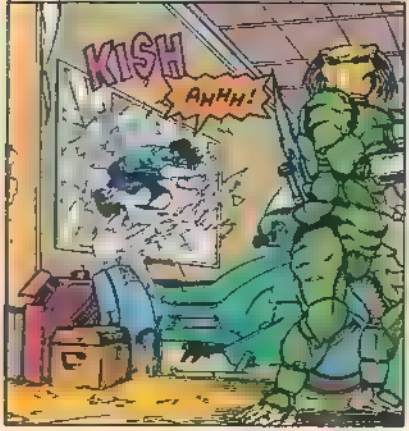
I DON'T KNOW-- IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE THE LANDING WAS OKAY, BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED AFTER HE TOUCHED DOWN.
YOU MEAN LIKE A RUPTURED FUEL TANK OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

Hmm... MAYBE WE DON'T WANT TO BORROW FROM THEIR TECHNOLOGY, AFTER ALL...

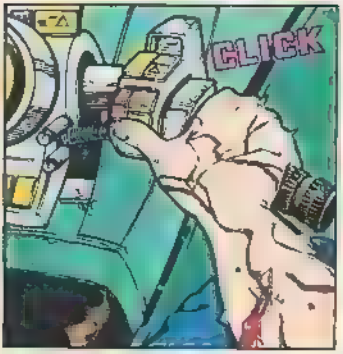

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?
TUNA CASSEROLE
TUNA! WHERE D YOU GET TUNA?
I TRADED ONE OF THE LECTOR'S CREW. SOME OF OUR.
WHAT'S IT BOY? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
GRRRR
BOB - WHAT...?
I'LL BET IT'S THOSE DAMN BRIAR WOLVES AGAIN
SIC EM, BOY
ROWF! ROWF!
WHAT'S IT DAD?

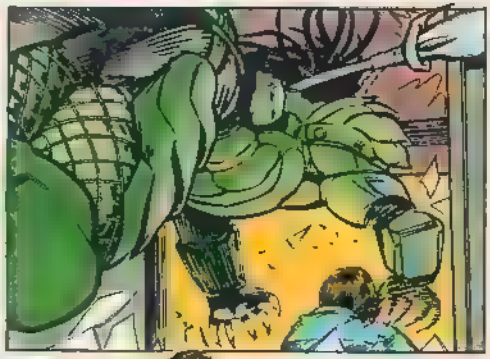
HONEY YOU AND BOBBY WAIT IN THE HOUSE
GRRR-R... YALP!
GOOD GOD
BOB... BE CAREFUL.
AKK!
BOB!
YUM WHAT...
RUN BOBBY

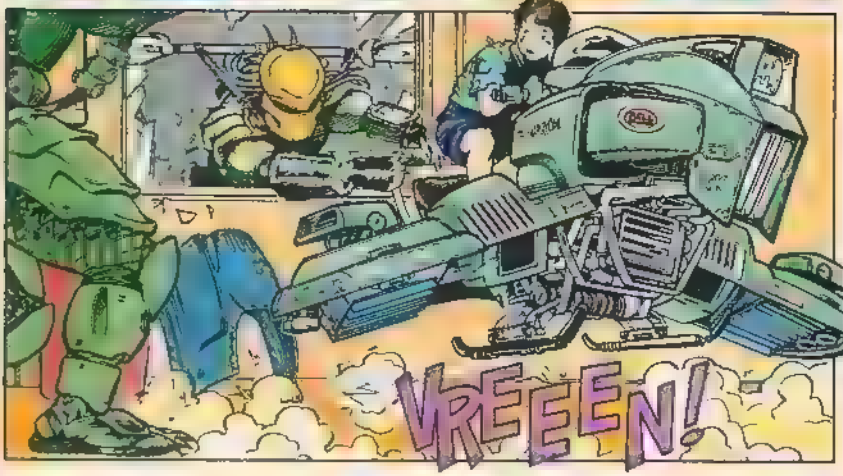
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE TRUCK. GRAB! OUT THE BACK.
DOOR
CRUNCH
SLISH


KISH
AHHH!

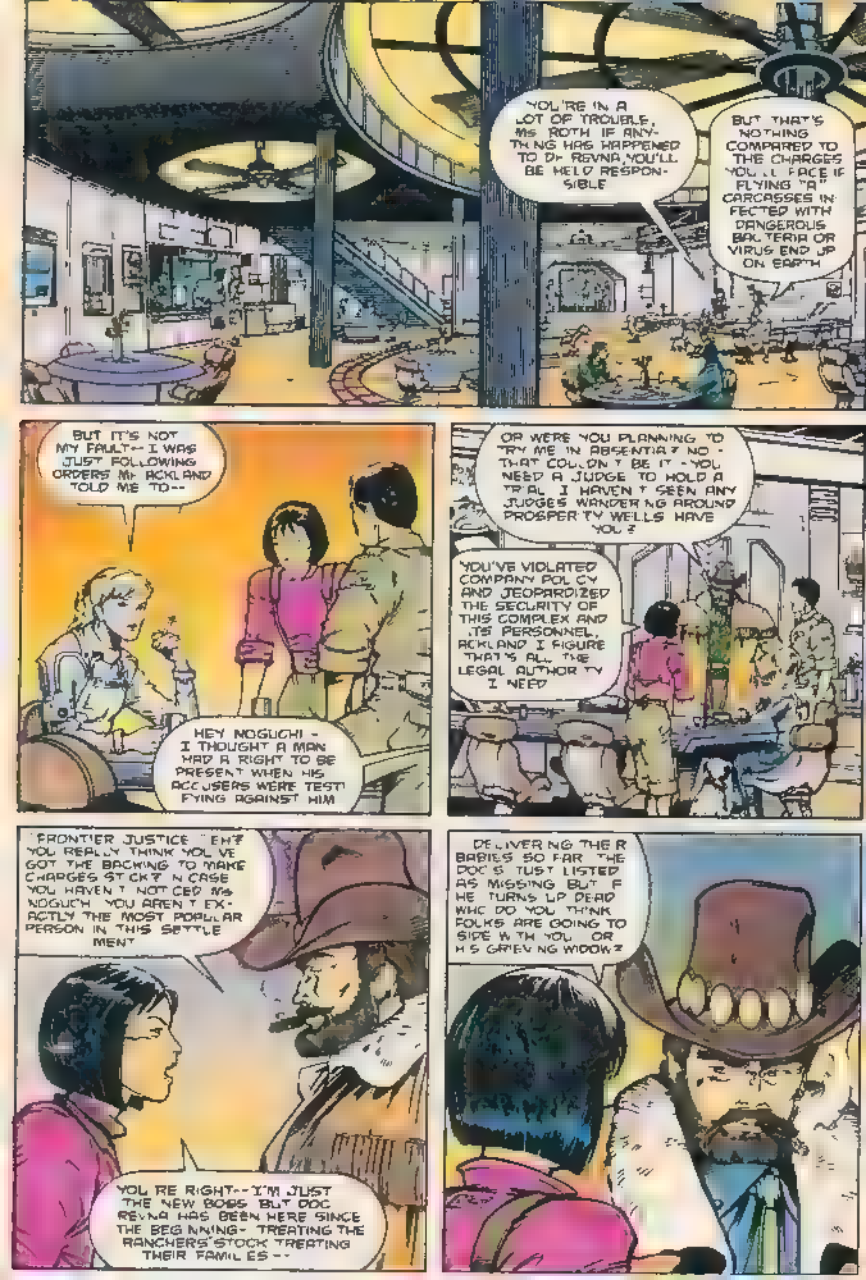
OOF!


CLICK




VREEEN!

VOOOSH
PLOOM
BUCK
THUNK SH-THUNK


YOU'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE, MS ROTH IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO DR REYNA, YOU'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE
BUT THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THE CHARGES YOU'LL FACE IF FLYING "A" CARCASSES INFECTED WITH DANGEROUS BACTERIA OR VIRUS END UP ON EARTH
BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT-- I WAS JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS MR ACKLAND TOLD ME TO--
HEY NOGUCHI - I THOUGHT A MAN HAD A RIGHT TO BE PRESENT WHEN HIS ACCUSERS WERE TESTIFYING AGAINST HIM
OR WERE YOU PLANNING TO TRY ME IN ABSENTIA? NO - THAT COULDN'T BE IT - YOU NEED A JUDGE TO HOLD A TRIAL I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY JUDGES WANDERING AROUND PROSPERITY WELLS HAVE YOU?
YOU'VE VIOLATED COMPANY POLICY AND JEOPARDIZED THE SECURITY OF THIS COMPLEX AND ITS PERSONNEL, ACKLAND I FIGURE THAT'S ALL THE LEGAL AUTHORITY I NEED
FRONTIER JUSTICE EH? YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE GOT THE BACKING TO MAKE CHARGES STICK? IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED MS NOGUCHI YOU AREN'T EXACTLY THE MOST POPULAR PERSON IN THIS SETTLEMENT
YOU'RE RIGHT-- I'M JUST THE NEW BOSS BUT DOC REYNA HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE BEGINNING- TREATING THE RANCHERS' STOCK TREATING THEIR FAMILIES --
DELIVERING THEIR BABIES SO FAR THE DOC'S JUST LISTED AS MISSING BUT IF HE TURNS UP DEAD WHO DO YOU THINK FOLKS ARE GOING TO SIDE WITH YOU OR HIS GRIEVING WIDOW?

LOOK I DIDN'T EXPECT THE DOC TO GO OUT LOOKING FOR *MORE* OF THOSE THINGS--

BUT IF HE DID, YOU WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE LOOKED IN THE *WRONG* PLACE

WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THOSE RHYNTH WERE INFECTED OR NOT! I DIDN'T WANT TO DELAY THE WHOLE OPERATION

DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT *TROUBLE* WITH *YOUR* HERD COULD BE THE REASON THE LECTOR'S *STILL* PARKED OUT THERE?

WHAT?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT

I MEANT TO TELL YOU BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

THOSE RHYNTH ARE GOING TO BE HELL TO MANAGE AFTER STANDING IN THE SUN'S ALL DAY!

OPERATIONS - COLLINS

CLICK CLICK

COLLINS! WHY HASN'T THE LECTOR TAKEN ITS FIRST LOAD BACK TO ITS ORBITER?

I COULDN'T SAY MA'AM WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT THEM ALL DAY BUT THEY DON'T RESPOND

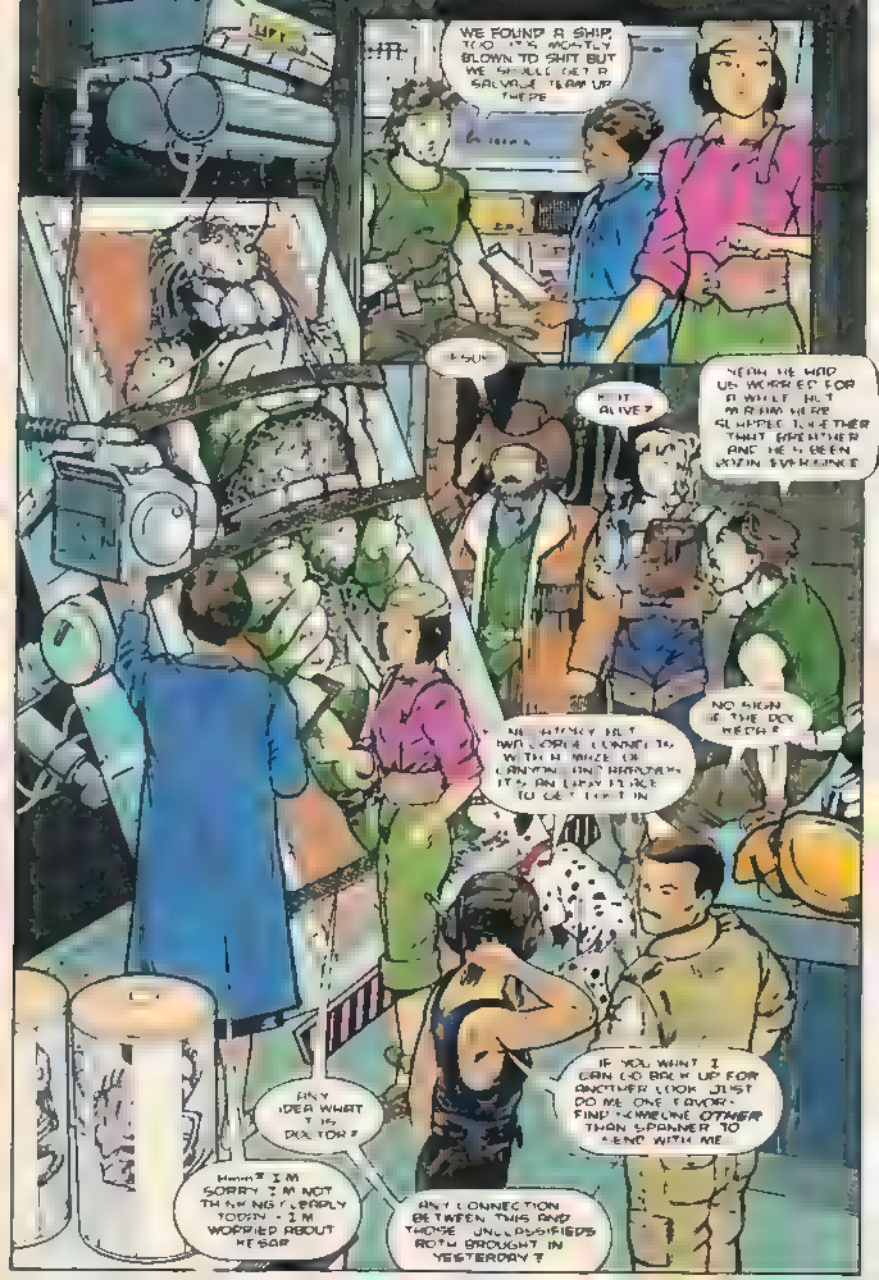
THEN SEND SOMEONE OUT THERE TO TALK TO THEM IN PERSON

I'LL GO *MYSELF*

GOOD DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH *CONOVER*-- TALK TO *STRANDBERG*

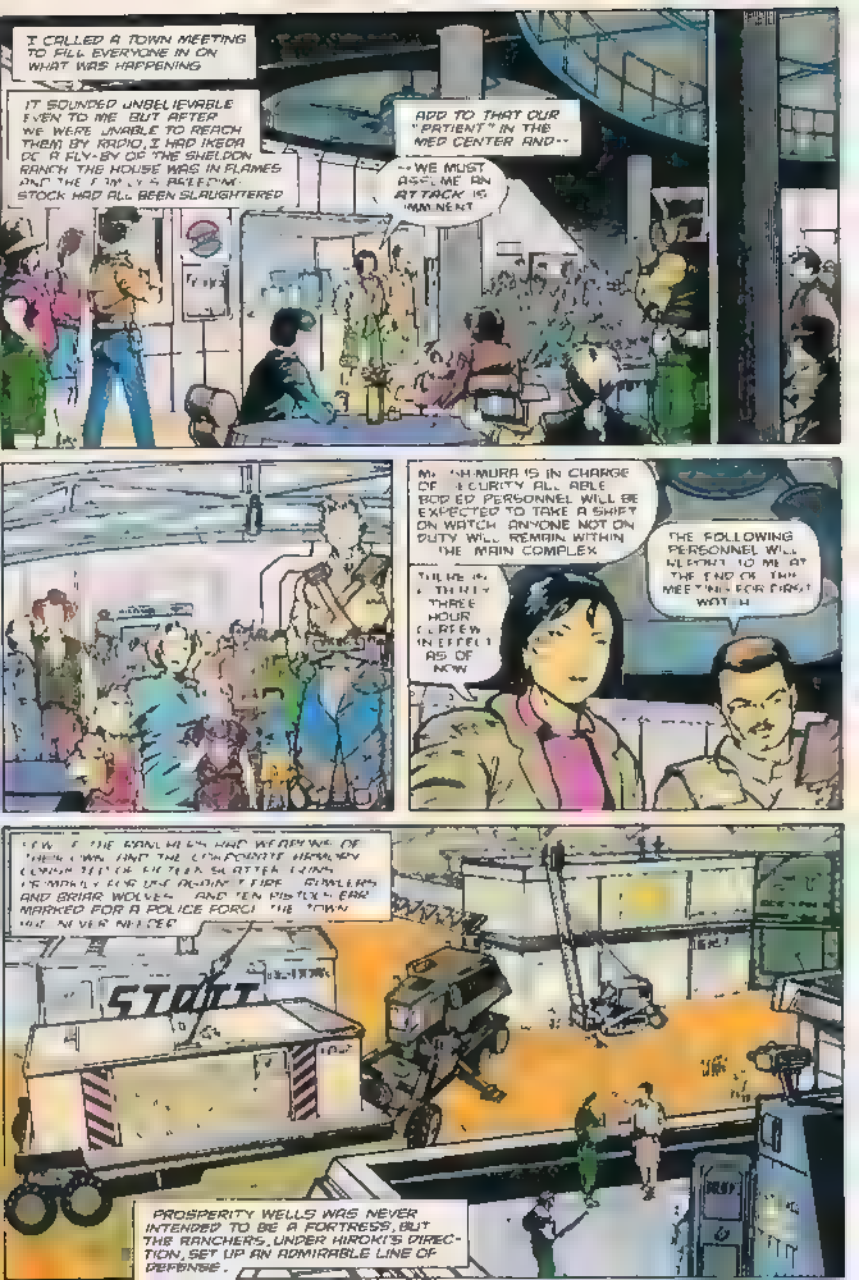
REMIND HIM THAT WE RE ON A T GHT SCHEDULE "
OH JESUS SCOTT ARE YOU CAN YOU HEAR ME ?
WH A HAPPENED TO US ? ARE THEY ?
AGHH!
OH GOD

THE COMPANY HAS BILLIONS INVESTED
MS. NOSUKH REPORT TO THE MEDICAL CENTER IMMEDIATELY. MS. NOSUKH TO THE MED CENTER
MODERN MACHINES
YES, I'M WEARING PRETTY THICK AROUND ALONG ON GROUND
SOLAR MACHINES HAS AN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE DORSAL REGION
HEY, MS. NOSUKH! LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!
THE SPECIMEN APPEARS TO BREATHE A MIX OF METHANE WITH TRACES OF OTHER COMMON ELEMENTS
SO MUCH FOR DOWN TIME
AVOID DIRECT CONTACT UNTIL SPECIALLY TRAINED PERSONNEL ARRIVE ON THE SCENE
WE MAY ALSO HAVE A WHOLE NEW CHAPTER

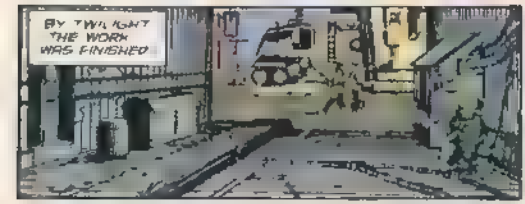

WE FOUND A SHIP, TOO. IT'S MOSTLY BLOWN TO SHIT BUT WE SHOULD GET A SALVAGE TEAM UP THERE.
NOT ALIVE?
YEAH, HE HAD US WORRIED FOR A WHILE, BUT MARIAN HERE SLAPPED TOGETHER THAT BREATHER AND HE'S BEEN ROUSIN' EVERYONE.
NO SIGN OF THE DOC, HEDA?
NO, NOTHING. BUT TWO COPS COMING TO WITH A MAZE OF CANYONS AND BARRIERS IS AN EASY PLACE TO GET LOST IN.
ANY IDEA WHAT THIS DOCTOR?
Hmm? I'M SORRY, I'M NOT THINKING CLEARLY TODAY. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HEGAR.
ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AND THOSE UNCLASSIFIEDS ROTH BROUGHT IN YESTERDAY?
IF YOU WANT, I CAN GO BACK UP FOR ANOTHER LOOK. JUST DO ME ONE FAVOR: FIND SOMEONE OTHER THAN SPANNER TO SEND WITH ME.

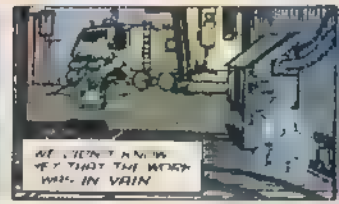
NO THIS CREATURE
QUITE AN ARSENAL THIS GUY'S NO EXPLORER THIS IS STUFF YOU'D PACK FOR A HUNTING TRIP OR AN INVASION
I DON'T THINK THIS IS
BUT THIS STRAP IS
LOOK OUT! STOP!
WHAT NOW?
CRASH

WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S THE SHELDON BOY COME RIDING INTO TOWN LIKE A MANIAC! HE JUST DON'T STOP FOR NO ONE UNTIL HE
MONSTERS!
WHAT'S THAT SON?
MONSTERS! THEY KILLED MOM AND DAD! DID YOU EVER SEE EM HUH? THEY KILLED MY DOG!
I GOT AWAY HUH BUT THEY KILLED MOM AND DAD!
LET'S GET HIM TO THE MED CENTER
DOC! WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY HERE
MONSTERS
MONSTERS!


I CALLED A TOWN MEETING TO ALL EVERYONE IN ON WHAT WAS HAPPENING
IT SOUNDED UNBELIEVABLE EVEN TO ME BUT AFTER WE WERE UNABLE TO REACH THEM BY RADIO, I HAD IKEDA DO A FLY-BY OF THE SHELDON RANCH. THE HOUSE WAS IN FLAMES AND THE FAMILY'S BREEDING STOCK HAD ALL BEEN SLAUGHTERED
ADD TO THAT OUR "PATIENT" IN THE MED CENTER AND--
--WE MUST ASSUME AN ATTACK IS IMMINENT
MR. ISHIMURA IS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY. ALL ABLE BODIED PERSONNEL WILL BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A SHIFT ON WATCH. ANYONE NOT ON DUTY WILL REMAIN WITHIN THE MAIN COMPLEX.
THERE IS A THIRTY THREE HOUR CURFEW IN EFFECT AS OF NOW.
THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WILL REPORT TO ME AT THE END OF THIS MEETING FOR FIRST WATCH.
STOTT
PROSPERITY WELLS WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE A FORTRESS, BUT THE RANCHERS, UNDER HIROKI'S DIRECTION, SET UP AN ADMIRABLE LINE OF DEFENSE.

FACED WITH A COMMON THREAT, THE RANCHERS AND THE COMPANY STAFF COOPERATED AS THEY NEVER HAD BEFORE

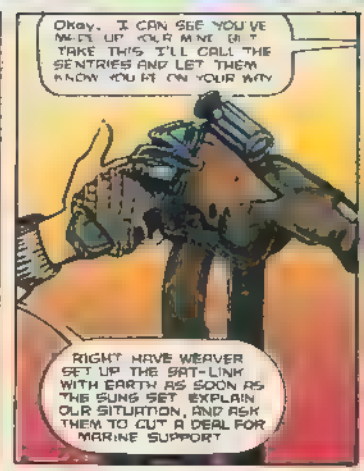

BY TWILIGHT THE WORK WAS FINISHED

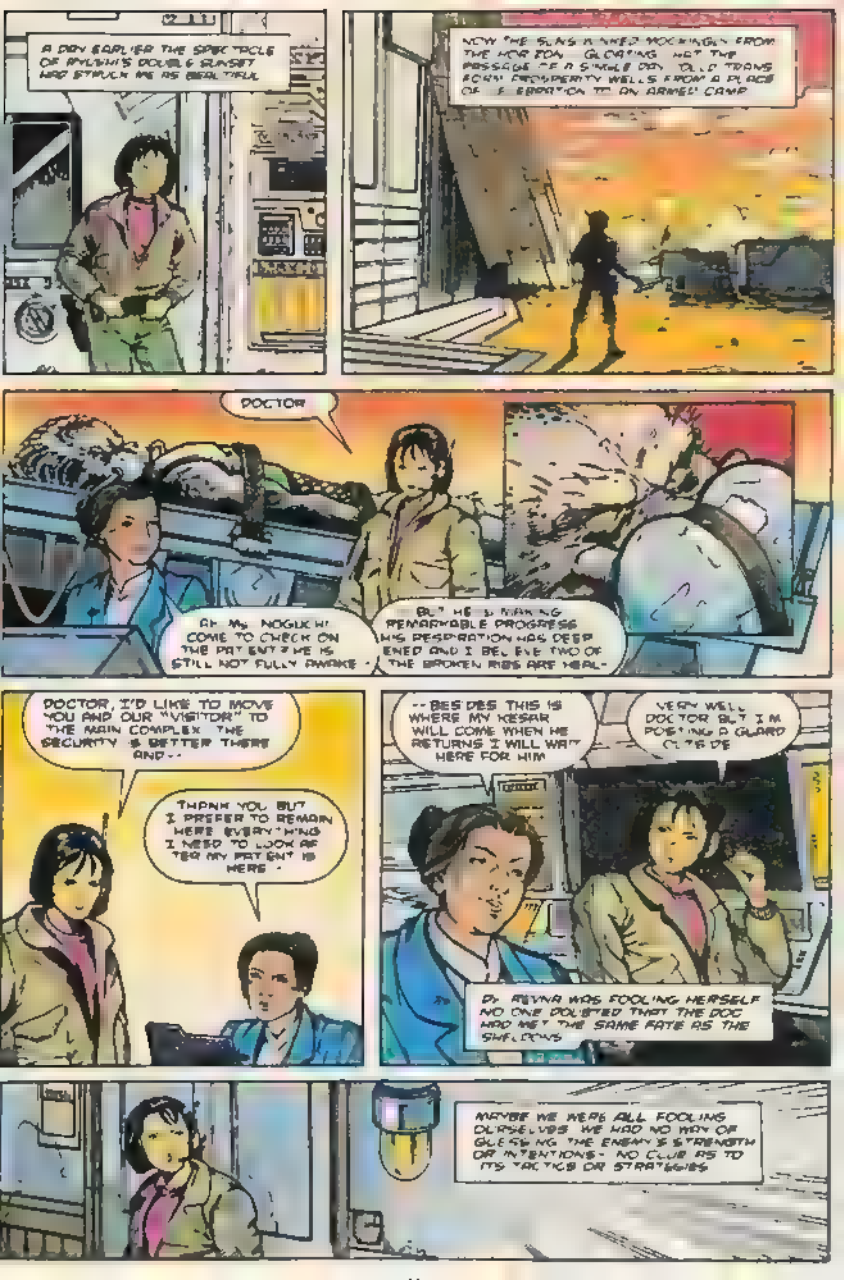

WE DIDN'T KNOW YET THAT THE WORK WAS IN VAIN

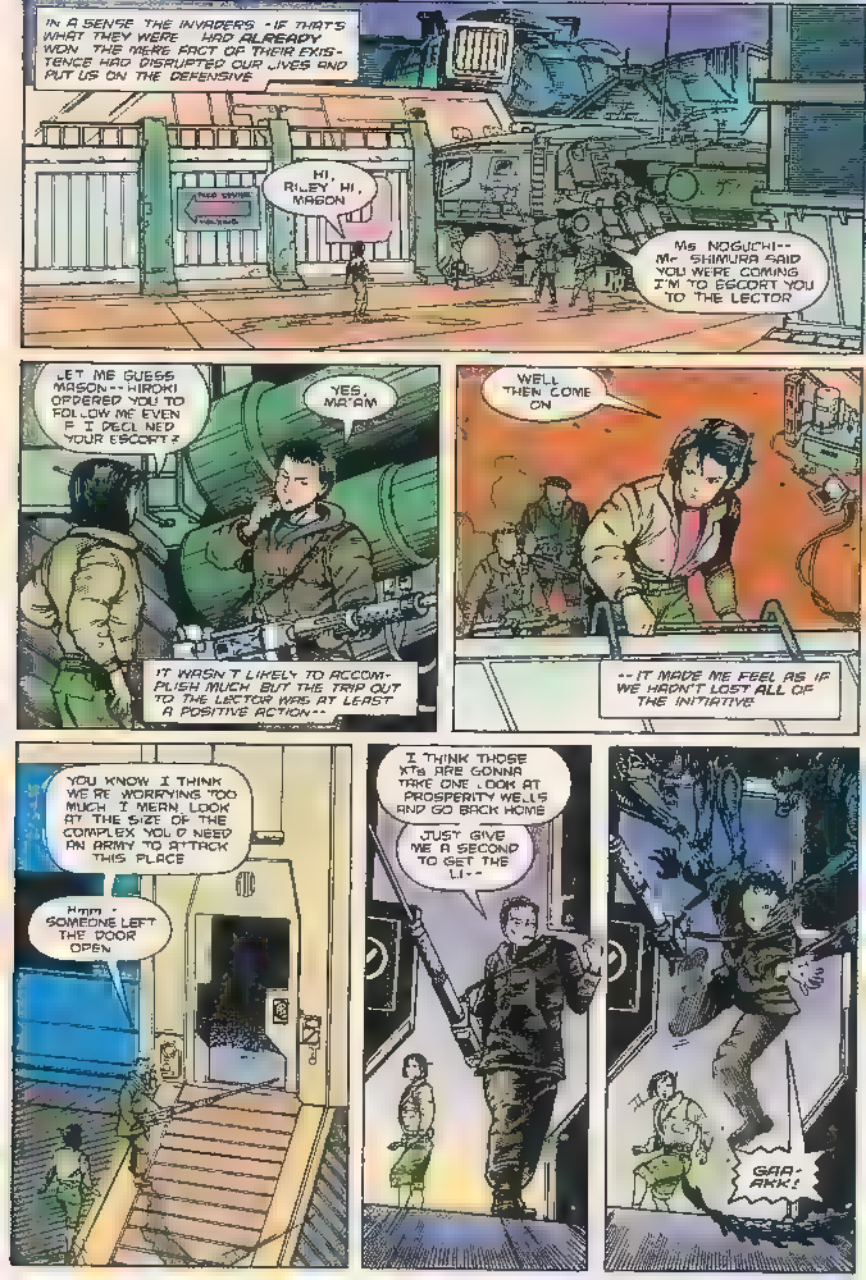
MOST EVERYONE'S IN FROM THE OUTLYING RANCHES AND WORKING THE LOW LANDS WE'RE OUR MAIN OUR ONLY LOCAL HOLDOUT IS DR. REVNA SHE REFUSES TO BE MOVED TO THE MAIN BUILDING
WE'LL HAVE TO RESUME OUR ATTACKS. HAVE TAKEN THE TWO RANCHES AS FOR REVNA COLLINS IS HER FRIEND HAVE HIM GO DOWN AND TALK TO HER
UH, WE CAN'T FIND COLLINS NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE THIS AFTERNOON WHEN YOU SENT HIM OUT TO THE LECTOR

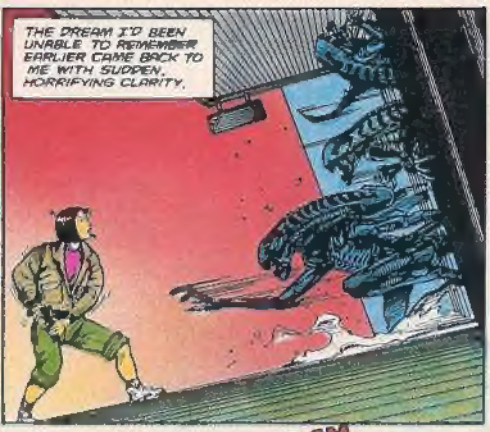
OK, I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING AROUND HERE MYSELF? ALL RIGHT... I'M GOING OUT THERE
HOLD IT GOING OUT WHERE?

TO THE LECTOR, OLLINS HASN'T COME BACK I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THEM
BUT FIRST I'M GOING TO TRY AND TALK SOME SENSE INTO DR. REVNA
MAYBE IT ISN'T SAFE


Okay. I CAN SEE YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MINDS BUT TAKE THIS I'LL CALL THE SENTRIES AND LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY
RIGHT HAVE WEAVER SET UP THE SAT-LINK WITH EARTH AS SOON AS THE SUNS SET EXPLAIN OUR SITUATION, AND ASK THEM TO CUT A DEAL FOR MARINE SUPPORT


A DAY EARLIER THE SPECTACLE OF RYUSHI'S DOUBLE SUNSET HAD STRUCK ME AS BEAUTIFUL
NOW THE SUNS PLANED MOCKINGLY FROM THE HORIZON GLOATING. HAT THE PASSAGE OF A SINGLE DAY TOLD TRANS FORM PROSPERITY WELLS FROM A PLACE OF ... EBRATION TO AN ARMED CAMP
DOCTOR
AH, MS. NOGUCHI COME TO CHECK ON THE PATIENT? HE IS STILL NOT FULLY AWAKE.
BUT HE'S MAKING REMARKABLE PROGRESS. HIS RESPIRATION HAS DEEPENED AND I BELIEVE TWO OF THE BROKEN RIBS ARE HEALING.
DOCTOR, I'D LIKE TO MOVE YOU AND OUR "VISITOR" TO THE MAIN COMPLEX. THE SECURITY IS BETTER THERE AND...
THANK YOU, BUT I PREFER TO REMAIN HERE. EVERYTHING I NEED TO LOOK AFTER MY PATIENT IS HERE.
...BESIDES, THIS IS WHERE MY KESAR WILL COME WHEN HE RETURNS. I WILL WAIT HERE FOR HIM.
VERY WELL, DOCTOR. BUT I'M POSTING A GUARD OUTSIDE.
DR. REYNA WAS FOOLING HERSELF. NO ONE DOUBTED THAT THE DOC HAD MET THE SAME FATE AS THE SHELDONS.
MAYBE WE WERE ALL FOOLING OURSELVES. WE HAD NO WAY OF GUESSING THE ENEMY'S STRENGTH OR INTENTIONS - NO CLUE AS TO ITS TACTICS OR STRATEGIES.


IN A SENSE THE INVADERS - IF THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE - HAD ALREADY WON. THE MERE FACT OF THEIR EXISTENCE HAD DISRUPTED OUR LIVES AND PUT US ON THE DEFENSIVE
HI, RILEY. HI, MASON
MS NOGUCHI-- MR SHIMURA SAID YOU WERE COMING. I'M TO ESCORT YOU TO THE LECTOR
JET ME GUESS MASON-- HIROKI ORDERED YOU TO FOLLOW ME EVEN IF I DECLINED YOUR ESCORT?
YES, MA'AM
IT WASN'T LIKELY TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH BUT THE TRIP OUT TO THE LECTOR WAS AT LEAST A POSITIVE ACTION--
WELL THEN COME ON
--IT MADE ME FEEL AS IF WE HADN'T LOST ALL OF THE INITIATIVE
YOU KNOW I THINK WE'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH. I MEAN, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE COMPLEX. YOU'D NEED AN ARMY TO ATTACK THIS PLACE
HMM - SOMEONE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN
I THINK THOSE XTS ARE GONNA TAKE ONE LOOK AT PROSPERITY WELLS AND GO BACK HOME
JUST GIVE ME A SECOND TO GET THE LI--
GAA-AKK!


THE DREAM I'D BEEN UNABLE TO REMEMBER EARLIER CAME BACK TO ME WITH SUDDEN, HORRIFYING CLARITY.

ONLY IT WASN'T A DREAM--

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
--IT WAS A NIGHTMARE--

--AND IT WAS REAL.

MORE NEXT ISSUE!

THE TERMINATOR™

HE'S BACK

A 4-issue series by
John Arcudi
Chris Warner
Paul Guinan

A U G U S T
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They destroyed everything he had,
everything he was.

Now, crime has a new enemy
and justice has a new face.

DARKMAN

UNIVERSAL PICTURES Presents LIAM NEESON FRANCES McDORMAND "DARKMAN" COLIN FRIELS LARRY DRAKE

MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN MAKE-UP EFFECTS BY TONY GARDNER and LARRY HAMLIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER RANDY SER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BILL POPE LINE PRODUCER DARYL KASS STORY BY SAM RAIMI

SCREENPLAY BY CHUCK PFARRER and SAM RAIMI & IVAN RAIMI and DANIEL GOLDIN & JOSHUA GOLDIN

R RESTRICTED PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 17 READ THE BOOK PRODUCED BY ROBERT TAPERT COMING SOON DIRECTED BY SAM RAIMI A UNIVERSAL RELEASE UNIVERSAL